

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27836

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON ENERGY COOPERATION

1. ERNEST PREEG, DIRECTOR RPE, AND ECON/COM MIN CALLED ON CABOUAT, DEPUTY TO BRUNET FOR ENERGY MATTERS, MFA, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CURRENT ENERGY MATTERS. WE EXPLAINED ORGANIZATION OF IEA AND GENERAL SCOPE OF AMBITIOUS WORK PROGRAM OVER NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS. WE NOTED THAT, WHILE ENERGY PROGRAM WAS MOST HIGHLY SPECIFIED PART OF INITIAL IEA AGREEMENT, EMPHASIS OF WORK HAS NOW SHIFTED TO OTHER AREAS OF AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY UNDER PROGRAM OVER NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS. WE NOTED THAT, WHILE ENERGY PROGRAM WAS MOST HIGHLY SPECIFIED PART OF INITIAL IEA AGREEMENT, EMPHASIS OF WORK HAS NOW SHIFTED TO OTHER AREAS OF AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY UNDER
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THE CHAPTER ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION.

2. CABOUAT EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN IEA WORK PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION. HE ASKED HOW TARGETS FOR DEMAND RESTRAINT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, TO WHAT DEGREE NATIONAL POLICIES WOULD HAVE TO BE SPECIFIED FOR REACHING TARGETS, HOW CONSUMPTION TARGETS WOULD RELATE TO IMPORT LEVELS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY, AND WHETHER WEIGHTED VOTING OR UNANIMOUS DECISIONS WOULD BE USED FOR THESE MATTERS. WE RESPONDED THAT THESE WERE PRECISELY THE KIND OF QUESTIONS THAT WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL DURING INTENSIVE IEA WORK PROGRAM AHEAD.

3. CABOUAT NOTED THAT LONG-TERM COOPERATION AS ENVISAGED FOR THE IEA WAS WHAT FRANCE WAS HOPING TO DO IN TERMS OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE RESPONDED THAT IN ANY EVENT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY AND BROADER CONSUMER COOPERATION IN THE IEA. IN FACT, REFLECTING BACK ON THE KENNEDY ROUND AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, THE BROADER TRADE FORUM HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FORCING DECISIONS ON AGRICULTURE AMONG THE NINE.

4. CABOUAT RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW THE WORK OF THE IEA ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION WOULD BE COORDINATED WITH OTHER OECD MEMBERS AND WHETHER THE OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP MIGHT NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM. WE RESPONDED THAT THE IEA WOULD BE REPORTING TO THE OECD COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME AS APPROPRIATE, BUT THAT THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP DID NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE SINCE IT WAS ITSELF A RESTRICTED GROUP INCLUDING ONLY FRANCE AND NORWAY OF THE EIGHT NON-IEA OECD COUNTRIES.

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